

Mass Workforce Issuance

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Policy

Information

To: Chief Elected Officials
Workforce Development Board Chairs
Workforce Development Board Directors
Title I Administrators
Career Center Directors
Title I Fiscal Officers
DCS Operations Managers

cc: WIOA State Partners

From: Alice Sweeney, Director
Department of Career Services

Date: September 19, 2016

Subject: **Disability Employment Initiative (DEI) Pathways to Employment for Youth Grant Awarded to Massachusetts**

Purpose: To notify Local Workforce Development Boards, One-Stop Career Center Operators and other workforce investment partners that the U.S. Department of Labor has awarded **\$2,500,000** to the Massachusetts Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development to operate the Massachusetts Disability Employment Initiative Pathways to Employment for Youth (**DEI Pathways for Youth**) Project.

Background: A number of provisions in WIOA emphasize and increase the requirements for the general workforce development system and the AJCs to meet the needs of job seekers with disabilities, increase their access to high-quality workforce services, and to prepare them for competitive integrated employment leading to economic self-sufficiency.

This project will improve job placement outcomes for upwards of **350** young people with disabilities, ages 14 – 24 through the use of career pathways strategies that prepare and support them for employment success through access to credential-based education and training pathways.

The DEI Pathways for Youth Project will operate in two Massachusetts regions: Hampden County and Greater Lowell. Project Partners include the Department of Career Services, Institute for Community Inclusion at UMass Boston, UMass Medical Work Without Limits, Commonwealth Corporation, Regional Employment Board of Hampden County and the Greater Lowell Workforce Investment Board.

Action

Requested: Please share with managers, staff and partners as appropriate.

Inquiries: Please contact Jason Albert, Jason.Albert@Massmail.state.ma.us for additional information.